

RUFUS FAULK FOR DISTRICT 7 BOSTON CITY COUNCIL



1. concerns about people who are drunk publicly and youth violence.) How do you plan to address the issue of over policing in Roxbury, while working to keep Roxbury safe? (100 words)

For the last 12 years I've fought on the front lines working to end the cycle of retaliatory gun violence in our city by addressing root causes. Violence is the manifestation of a broken system and failed public policy. My role on City council will be to utilize my 35 years of contextual experience along with my masters and doctorate level understanding of policy in order to avoid the unintended consequences public policy.

2. Black people are stopped, frisked, and arrested for drugs more often than white people, despite similar rates of drug use and sales between races. What will you do to reduce racial disparities in stops and arrests? (100 words)

In 2011 I was asked to be a part of the Urban Institute's roundtable conversation centered on the impact Stop and Frisk policies has on the Black community. This conversation was hosted by COPS (community oriented policing services), a program within the U.S Department of Justice, and I was asked to be a subject matter expert on the effects these racially discriminatory practices had on Black boys and men. My policy suggestions then are the same now. Destroying the perception of

Black criminality, a civilian review board with subpoena powers and increasing the diversity within BPD.

Yes/No Questions (please answer yes/no, and you may include an optional narrative response of up to 40 words

3. Somerville and Cambridge require a public process before their police departments can acquire and use surveillance technology. Recently the Boston Police purchased drones and attempted to purchase social media surveillance software. Will you support a municipal law to require transparency and democratic accountability before the BPD acquires surveillance technology? Yes/No

Yes. The protection of our privacy and preservation of our peace of mind is one of my top priorities.

4. Thousands of people are arrested each year in for minor offenses like driving without a license, drug possession, and disorderly conduct. These arrests disproportionately impact Black and Latino Bostonians. ICE is notified, putting immigrants at risk. Will you encourage the police commissioner to use discretion to stop making arrests for minor offenses? Yes/No

Yes. Due to these arrests, so many of our Black and Brown Bostonians are being disqualified from employment and educational opportunities. Widening the level of inequity in Boston.

5. The Boston Police Department is involved in a "countering violent extremism" (CVE) grant program that focuses on Somali youth. CVE programs across the country have not made

communities safer, but instead have chilled political dissent and access to social services for Muslims and other marginalized communities. Do you support the BPD's countering violent extremism program, why or why not? Yes/No

No. I stand against racial and religious profiling. In this age of Trump it's even more important that we build trust and that's done through conversation not profiling.

6. Police overtime spending regularly goes over budget (by \$22 million in 2016) and outpaces spending on youth jobs and community centers. Will you work to impose stricter limitations on police overtime spending and invest cost savings in housing, education, youth jobs, and drug treatment? Yes/No

Yes. However I would take it a step further and push for the reestablishment of the Council's Post Audit and Oversight Committee. This will insure that we are being fiscally responsible and underfunded services are supported.

AFFORDABILITY, HOUSING, DEVELOPMENT, DISPLACEMENT, AND GENTRIFICATION

Many comments included concerns about: People keeping their homes with rising taxes, utility expenses, and renovation costs. Bringing awareness of rising apartment rents. Skyrocketing rent in the city.

7. How will you increase truly affordable housing in District 7? (100 words)

The first step is for the residents of District 7 to define what affordability means versus the Greater Boston based AMI which

dictates for D7 residents what's affordable to us. The second step would be to confine the AMI to the zip codes in D7 in order insure that the low and moderate rates used to define affordability accurately convey D7's median income.

8. What are your plans to control the BPDA's private development expansion in Roxbury? (100 words)

Revitalizing the Roxbury Neighborhood Council and updating the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan would be the first two action steps, I would take to curtail BPDA's private development expansion into Roxbury. I would also advocate for Roxbury to have a BPDA community liaison not appointed by the mayor and who is beholden to the community.

9. How could the individual persons in the community be activated to participate and involve themselves in community development action? How do you see a mosque and Muslim involvement in this development? (100 words)

I believe our community is filled with thought leaders who understand the importance of ensuring that the community receives what's in our best interest. Our community should a strategy around what development looks like from our point of view and it's important that everyone's voice is heard.

10. Please explain how you will handle the issue of affordable housing units for P3 (Parcel 3) and the Kensington project at 45 Townsend. What is affordable housing to you? Will you hold Kensington to offer onsite affordability? (100 words)

P3 is on city owned land, I believe any development on city owned land should preference the creation of affordable homeownership for current residents to purchase. In regards to private land such as 45 Townsend, Boston should be on par with Cambridge and mandate at least 20% affordable units. I am on record as being against Kensington being allowed to move affordable units to another part of the district. The affordable units must be included in the plans for the 45 Townsend location.

11. Please describe in detail what you expect your role to be in stemming the tide of gentrification and displacement in Roxbury. Essentially what kinds of policies will you support or not support? (100 words)

In order to stem the tide of gentrification and displacement District 7's next city councilor must be a tireless advocate for the community. This campaign I have turned down meetings and money from developers or contractors connected to proposed developments in our District. I will continue to be an independent voice of the people and stand against developers seeking to displace our residents. I want to ensure that my 3 year old daughter has the chance to experience the Roxbury that I grew to love.

Yes/No Questions (please answer yes/no, and you may include an optional narrative response of up to 40 words)

12. The city's housing plan includes small goals for units for incomes less than \$25,000 a year and \$50,000 a year. It also does not have numerical goals for converting market-rate units into affordable units or growing community land trusts. Will you advocate to strengthen the plan to increase the goals at the

lowest income levels and set specific goals for converting market-rate units and expanding land trusts? Yes/No

Yes. I would advocate for a housing plan that benefits the majority of residents, which are often marginalized and not included in planning. Yes. I would advocate for goals for not only converting market rate units into affordable housing, I will also, advocate for growing community land trusts by expanding the DSNi model to other parts of the district.

13. Will you support increasing City funding for affordable housing, including by taxing speculation/flipping of properties, taxing sales of luxury properties, and dedicating property taxes from new developments to affordable housing? Yes/No

Yes. I believe its important that we not only create affordable housing rental units, but also increase pathways to affordable home ownership.

14. Most new affordable housing is unaffordable to Roxbury households unless there are rental subsidies for the units or for the people living there. Will you make it a top budget priority to create a City-funded rental subsidy program similar to Section 8 and MRVP? Yes/No

Yes. Our residents should not be left out in the cold while they await state subsidies which often take years to receive. By creating city funded rental subsidy our residents can be afforded faster access to housing.

15. Both Marty Walsh and Tito Jackson have committed to changing the citywide inclusionary development policy next year. While Roxbury residents create stronger local standards,

in the meantime will you support a citywide policy of 25% affordability defined as 60% area median income or less?

Yes/No

Yes. In order for Roxbury residents to be able to define these standards we must bring our neighborhood, civic associations and advocacy groups together. I'm committed to assuring that this critical first step happens.

16. While Roxbury residents create stronger local standards for City-owned land, in the meantime will you support a citywide policy on city-owned land of at least 1/3 low-income housing and 1/3 moderate-income housing? (30% and 31-60% AMI for rental, 50% and 51-100% AMI for ownership with a priority of 50-80%) Yes/No

Yes. My priority is to ensure that the residents of District 7 are able to benefit off of the development, not be displaced by it.

17. Do you support dissolving the BPDA into separate City departments for planning and development, subject to oversight by the City Council and included in the regular City budget?

Yes/No

I hear the concerns around transparency and lack of community involvement. I would first convene a council hearing to address the BPDA concerns raised by our residents and work with community identity solutions.

INCOME INEQUALITY AND WAGES

18. If the rents keep going up what will you do to raise wages / hourly wages? (100 words)

I will continue to advocate on the state level in support of raising the minimum wage. Locally, I will continue connecting D7 residents to the better paying jobs and ensure that our residents are trained to enter into the high paying industries that Boston has to offer.

19. When will leadership recognize that gentrification cannot be solved with only more affordable housing; that income inequality plays a more critical role regarding displacement! What three things, beyond more housing, would you add to a housing strategy to address displacement? (100 words)

1. Education- I would make Madison Park a feeder school for BPS, BPD and BFD. We should be intentionally creating a pipeline to our city agencies, which would instantly boost the diversity numbers in BPD, BFD and BPS.

2. Small Businesses- Local small businesses are the engine of the community. I would expand access to small start up business planning with a focus on sustainability.

3. I will ensure that every developer adheres to the Boston Residency Jobs Policy and that the City of Boston increases contracts with MBE and WBE.

20. Define inequality, and what does it mean to you? (100 words)

Inequality is when access and resources are not distributed equally. When I think of inequality, I think of Roxbury being the only neighborhood that has an acceptance rate of under 40% to Boston's Examination high schools. I think of Roxbury being the

only neighborhood that doesn't offer AWC classrooms for 4th & 5th grade.

EDUCATION

21. Minorities in the city are lacking education. How would you incentivize adults to go back to school and education (knowing that we have a great community college such as Roxbury Community College, RCC)? (100 words)

The first step would be to stop referring to ourselves as minorities. When you allow yourself to be referred to as a “less than” you should never be surprised when you receive less than you deserve. The second step would be to insure that our students are being prepared academically to enter into our labor force or college/university upon graduation. The third step would be to create employment pipelines to Boston’s...

22. Can we teach chess to all K-4 graders or 6-8 graders? (100 words)

I love the idea of introducing more of our young people to chess and as someone who picked up the game in high school, the idea of starting in elementary school is a brilliant one. So the short answer is absolutely and this initiative would have my full support.

23. Art in schools has been shown to improve academic test scores, attendance, college attendance, community service & more. A group of parents & community members, in collaboration with the principal of the Nathan Hale School, have proposed a community art center to better serve the students and residents of our neighborhood. Right now, students at the Hale only get art once a week & there is no music instruction.

This lack of creativity holds back student achievement & joy of learning. If elected, would you support more arts programming during the school day? (100 words)

My niece is currently a third grader at the Nathan Hale School and she just brought this very issue to me last week. I will give you the same answer that I gave her, I will do everything in my power to build the partnerships and to find the funding necessary to support your arts programming. I will take this a step further and say that this level of programming needs to be expanded across the entire district. I will be reaching out to our local colleges and universities as well as our local corporations to support these much needed enrichment opportunities.

RESPONSIVENESS TO CONSTITUENTS

24. Our previous City Councilor has a broad vision for the city, but lacked responsiveness to constituents. How can we be sure that as our city councilor you will respond to the INDIVIDUAL needs of the constituents? (100 words)

I've been doing on the ground constituent services in District 7 for the last 12 years, largely because our entire local political system failed to respond to our needs and concerns. Whether it was creating summer camp opportunities for families in Warren Gardens, finding emergency housing for a mother

Yes/No Questions (please answer yes/no, and you may include an optional narrative response of up to 40 words)

25. Would you consider having a community office in District 7?
Yes/No

Yes. We will have a shared District office with State Representative Chynah Tyler, which will allow our constituents the opportunity to address both municipal and state issues.

ADDITIONAL

26. What do you feel or know would improve lives of citizens in the city? (100 words)

27. Do you believe in renewable energy, including solar, wind, geo-thermal energy? (100 words)

I absolutely believe and support the utilization of renewable energy. It's critical from an environmental standpoint but I also view this as another industry that can help to decrease the level of income inequality that exists within the city of Boston. Imagine students at Madison Park Technical Vocational high school learning how to develop, market and install solar panels. Students from Dearborn Stem Academy making breakthroughs in geo-thermal energy technology. There are endless possibilities and it is my job to make this a reality.

28. Would you potentially support Amazon moving to Roxbury? (100 words)

My support for any development project or corporate relocation is contingent on the explicit and codified community benefit for Roxbury's residents and businesses. I've read over the proposal and my first question would be, of the 15 colleges and universities that signed letters in support of this relocation, how many have committed to partnering with schools in Roxbury to insure that our students are being prepared to enter into this

industry? My second question would be, of the 17 businesses that wrote letters in support of this relocation, how many have committed to training and utilizing Roxbury's labor force?

29. Have you ever played on a sports team? If so, what was your greatest sports accomplishment? (100 words)

Playing basketball and baseball with the Roxbury Boys & Girls club was my first experience being a part of team. That's where I learned the importance of teamwork and the lesson that success is impossible without hard work. Those friendships I made as a 10 year old boy have remained intact some 25 years later and I'm proud to say that many of those very friends are supporting and volunteering on my campaign right now. My greatest sports accomplishment would have to be winning the division 3 state basketball championship my junior year in high school. We were the underdogs who fought hard and turned into champions.

30. Do you think it is important for there to be a Black man or Black woman on the City Council? (100 words)

I believe context and representation matters. Therefore I believe that it is critical that Boston's Black and Brown boys and men have a voice that can speak directly to their issues and concerns. As Councilor Ayanna Pressley is an unapologetic advocate for women and girls on the council, I intend on being that fearless advocate for Black and Brown men and boys. With Tito Jackson leaving, that voice will be missing from the council and from critical policy discussions around gun violence, closing the achievement gap and bringing jobs to the district.

31. Why are you so famous? (100 words)

I am far from famous but it is extremely humbling to be recognized for the work that you do and for your commitment to the community. Whether it's coaching for the No Books No Ball youth program, supporting a family through a time of need or running for public office; I've committed my life to being active and accessible.

32. What drives you to make decisions? People and their quality of life or being in power? (100 words)

When I graduated from Temple University I had the opportunity to stay in Philadelphia to live and work but I decided to come back to Roxbury in order to serve my community. I returned to Roxbury because I knew I had an obligation to pour back into a community that had given me so much. This election is not about a title for me, it's about being able to advocate and improve the quality of my neighbors. The pursuit of power doesn't drive me a commitment to service does.